

Appl. No. 10/616,956  
Response and Amdt. dated July 22, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated March 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An animal feeder support apparatus for collecting and retaining animal waste feed, the apparatus comprising:
  - a platform including at least one low point;
  - an opening located within said at least one low point;
  - a support at each low point having a first end and a second end, said support including a passageway between said first and said second ends; and
  - a collection container located at said second end;

wherein a path from said platform to said collection container via said passageway is substantially unobstructed so as to allow flow of waste feed therethrough.
2. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein a base is located at said second end.
3. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 2, wherein said base includes a means for accessing said collection container.
4. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 3, wherein said means for accessing is a door.
5. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 2, wherein said base is fixed to the ground by fixing means.
6. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 2, wherein said base is a bottomless base.

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7. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said collection container includes a bottom part that is water permeable.
8. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 7, wherein said bottom part of the collection container is a mesh of an appropriate grade to prevent water from accumulating in the collection container and simultaneously capable of retaining the wasted material in the collection container.
9. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said collection container can be replaced or emptied.
10. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said support is a hollow support tube.
11. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 10, wherein said hollow support tube is a hollow telescopic support tube.
12. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 11, wherein said hollow telescopic support tube includes multiple encasing sections.
13. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 12, wherein said hollow telescopic support tube has a height that is adjustable by expanding and retracting said multiple encasing sections.
14. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 13, wherein said multiple encasing sections include suitable retention means for maintaining said multiple encasing sections in an extended position and said apparatus in an upright position.

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15. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 14, wherein said retention means are pegs.
16. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said platform is a saucer-shaped platform.
17. (Currently amended) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said saucer-shaped platform has a diameter sufficient to prevent grasping of an edge of said saucer-shaped platform by animals.
18. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said diameter is at least 2 feet.
19. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein said platform includes a bird feeder support.
20. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein a cover is attached to said platform.
21. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 20, wherein said cover is attached to the platform by multiple rigid stems.
22. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 20, wherein said cover reduces snow accumulation on the platform.
23. (Original) The feeder support according to claim 1, wherein a decorative element is attached to the apparatus.

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24. (Currently amended) A feeder support apparatus for collecting and retaining waste feed, the apparatus comprising:

a saucer-shaped platform including at least one low point with a central opening and having a hanging member to support a cover fixed to said saucer-shaped platform, said hanging member capable of suspending a bird feeder, said cover being fixed to said saucer-shaped platform using multiples rigid stems sufficiently spaced apart from one another to sustain said cover;

a substantially vertical hollow telescopic supporting tube having a first end and a second end, said tube coupled to said central opening at said low point of the saucer-shaped platform, said tube including a passageway between said first and said second ends, said tube being formed from multiple encasing sections and including suitable retention means for maintaining said multiple encasing sections and said tube in an extended position and said apparatus in an upright position;

a collection container located at said second end, said collection container including a water permeable bottom part suitable to prevent water from accumulating in said collection container and simultaneously capable of retaining waste therein;

a bottomless supporting base fixable to a surface, said base including a compartment large enough to shelter said collection container and a door to enable access to said collection container; and

wherein a path from said platform to said collection container via said passageway is substantially unobstructed so as to allow flow of waste feed therethrough therethrough.